

# **City Council Meeting Packet**



**September 17, 2019**

## AGENDA

Norton City Council

September 17, 2019

6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation – Rev. Freddie Powers
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Approval of Minutes
  1. Meeting of September 3, 2019
5. Audience for Visitors
6. New Business
  - A. Introduction of the 2019 AmeriCorps/NCCC Team Bayou 5.
  - B. Presentation About the Community Remembrance Project.
  - C. Presentation by the Norton City Schools' Innovation Network Team About Their Initiative With Project Based Learning at J. I. Burton.
  - D. Consideration of a Mutual City/County Boundary Designation for the Purpose of E-911 Mapping Systems.
  - E. Confirmation of a Check/Transfer in Excess of \$100,000.

F. Closed Meeting for Personnel as Per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) and Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia as Amended, Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose, or of the Disposition of Publically Held Real Property, Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body.

1. Appointment to the Mountain Empire Older Citizens Advisory Board for a Two (2) Year Term, Currently Michele Knox Whose Term Expires 9/15/19.

To 9/15/21

2. Appointment to the Norton Tourism Committee for a Four (4) Year Term, Currently Carol Caruso Whose Term Expires 9/30/19.

To 9/30/23

7. Comments by the City Manager, City Attorney, and City Council.
8. Adjournment.

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held Tuesday, September 3, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor Joseph Fawbush presiding.

Present: William Mays, Robert Fultz, Jr., Joseph Fawbush, Mark Caruso, and Delores Belcher

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager

The invocation was given by Pastor Gary Hill and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Police Chief James Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, and Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt the minutes of the August 20, 2019, meeting as presented.

There was no response to the Mayor's Call for Visitors.

A public hearing was held to receive comments regarding a proposed ordinance to Authorize Maintenance, Fees, and Rules and Regulations Governing the Highland Cemetery.

The city manager said the proposed ordinance basically authorizes the city to maintain the cemetery, permits the city manager to establish rules and regulations, and allows city council by resolution to establish fees.

Council members had no comments prior to the public hearing.

Mayor Fawbush opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment on the proposed ordinance, Mayor Fawbush closed the public hearing.

Upon a motion by Councilwoman Belcher, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to adopt an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Authorizing Maintenance, Fees, and Rules and Regulations Governing the Highland Cemetery. (Insert)

A public hearing was held to solicit public input regarding a proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 – Reservoir, To Make It Unlawful to Possess a Gasoline-Powered Engine or Petroleum-Based Products, Except in the Designated Parking Area and Access Roads within the Reservoir Area.

Mr. Ramey said the city had recently received questions asking if gasoline-powered engine could be on a boat but not in the water. He said the city's ordinance did not specifically address the question, so council asked the city attorney to draft a proposed ordinance prohibiting gasoline-powered watercraft and other petroleum-based products on the reservoir and any other areas not designated as a parking area or access roads within the reservoir area, excluding emergency services operators or other governmental agencies, such as the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF).

Mayor Fawbush opened the public hearing.

There being no public input on the proposed ordinance, Mayor Fawbush closed the public hearing.

There was no comment from council.

Upon motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to adopt an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Norton, Virginia, Amending Chapter 20 – Reservoir, To Make It Unlawful to Possess a Gasoline-Powered Engine or Petroleum-Based Products, Except in the Designated Parking Area and Access Roads within the Reservoir Area. (Insert)

A public hearing was held regarding a United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development (USDARD) proposed loan/grant application to purchase two emergency vehicles.

Mr. Ramey said USDARD requires the advertisement of a public hearing giving notice that the city is considering an application to USDARD to purchase emergency vehicles through a loan/grant package. Mr. Ramey noted that he had given members copies of a resolution stating that a public hearing was held, and that council authorizes city administration to submit an application with any and all related paperwork for the loan/grant package to purchase two emergency vehicles.

Mayor Fawbush opened the public hearing.

There being no public comment, Mayor Fawbush closed the public hearing.

There were no comments from council.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to adopt a Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Submit an Application, Including Any Additional Required Paperwork, for a Loan/Grant Package to the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development for the Purpose of Purchasing Two Emergency Vehicles. (Insert)

Lonesome Pine Regional Library Director Julie Short provided an update on library activities and noted that September is Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Via a PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Short presented a variety of activities the library offers citizens throughout the year on and off campus, and noted September is Library Card Sign-Up Month. She said the Friends of Wise Library (FOWL) held a book signing in February at the Hotel Norton featuring *Love Between the Covers* with Adriana and Mary Trigiani that raised \$3,000 for children's activities at the library. Some of the other activities included the National Endowment for the Arts 2019 Big Read that showcased author Ron Rash's *Burning Bright: Stories* that feature narratives about the Appalachian area. Ms. Short said the library also conducted a social media workshop for local businesses and provides Pre-School and After-School Programs, and a Teen Headquarters Program on Tuesdays. She said the library mails out books to the homebound and the library actively participates in the community by attending the Norton Friends and Farmers Market and Norton Elementary and Middle School Meet the Teacher Night. She said the library participated in the city's Best Friend Festival and Christmas Parade and offered many other programs including author Jahmal Potter reading his book *Where is the Woodbooger?* Ms. Short told council the library is very thankful to the city for helping make these events possible for the community, and that the city is an essential partner with the library.

Mayor Fawbush thanked Ms. Short for the presentation and for the valuable outreach to citizens of Norton.

Council had been presented in their packets with a Proclamation Declaring September 2019 as Library Card Sign-Up Month.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fultz, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt the Proclamation Declaring September 2019 as Library Card Sign-Up Month. (Insert)

In packets for council consideration was a check to W-L Construction & Paving, Inc., dated July 10, 2019, in the amount of \$180,742.27, to cover the second phase of 2018 paving.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to confirm the check to W-L Construction & Paving, Inc., as stated above.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous roll call vote: YES – Mays, Fultz, Fawbush, Caruso, Belcher, NO – None, ABSENT – None, council moved to go into closed meeting for Personnel as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1), and for the Discussion or Consideration of the Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose, or of the Disposition of Publically Held Real Property, Where Discussion in an Open Meeting Would Adversely Affect the Bargaining Position or Negotiating Strategy of the Public Body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Mayor Fawbush declared council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Mays, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to go back into open meeting.

Mayor Fawbush declared council back in open meeting.

The clerk polled each member of council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes. The clerk then read a Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

Mayor Fawbush opened the floor for nominations to the Spearhead Trail Blazers for a three-year term each to expire on May 1, 2022.

Councilman Caruso nominated Beth Walker to be appointed to the Spearhead Trail Blazers for a three-year term to expire on May 1, 2022.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Fawbush declared Beth Walker appointed to the Spearhead Trail Blazers for a three-year term each to expire on May 1, 2022

In comments from the city manager:

Mr. Ramey said the grand opening of Sugar Hill Cidery, LLC., is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, September 4th, at 115 – 8<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.

He said the Wise County/City of Norton Chamber of Commerce has invited council to a ribbon cutting ceremony planned at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at Castle Service Center located at 398 Park Avenue, N.E.

Mr. Ramey informed council the second half of real estate and personal property tax tickets will be mailed this week.

He said he provided council with a copy of a portion of an article regarding historical information on the recently refurbished and reinstalled Coca-Cola clock sign. Mr. Ramey said the article led author Larry Jorgensen, who wrote *Coca-Cola Trail: People and Places*, to contact him regarding the refurbished Coca-Cola clock sign. He said Mr. Jorgensen is writing a second book and wants to include the Coca-Cola sign located in downtown in his book.

Mr. Ramey provided at members' desks a Pro-Art package that includes tickets for this year's programs.

Mr. Ramey said the Woodbooger Geocache and the Benge Revenge Bike Race are both scheduled for Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.

He said the city made the top 10 finalist in the second round of competition in the Blue Ridge Outdoor Magazine annual "Top Adventure Town" competition, and he encouraged everyone to vote.

Mr. Ramey said a bid opening was held today for the tennis court project at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Park. He said bids came in over budget but city administration and the contractor are looking for creative ways to reduce costs.

Mr. Ramey said he provided council with copies of the latest Flag Rock and High Knob traffic counts.

He said the Woodbooger Geocache and the Benge Revenge Bike Race will be held Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, the Castle Service Center Ribbon Cutting is scheduled at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. He said the High Knob Hellbender and the Woodbooger Festival are scheduled for Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, the Virginia Municipal League (VML) Conference is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> in Roanoke, and the Cloudsplitter Ultra 100 Trail Race will take place Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Caruso informed Mr. Ramey he would be attending the VML Conference on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

The following comments were made by council members:

Councilman Fultz said he is looking forward to all the upcoming outdoor events in the city.

Councilman Caruso asked for clarification on the VML Conference schedule.

Mr. Ramey handed out a flyer to council that included the schedule of events for the VML Conference.

Mayor Fawbush said he would like for the Tennis Court Project to include the entire scope of the project and that he would like the consensus of council to authorize the city manager to begin negotiating with the contractor to obtain a final cost to complete the entire Tennis Court Project and report his finding to council. Mayor Fawbush explained due to the time sensitivity of this project, if Mr. Ramey needs to make a decision on any portion of the contract, he must be authorized to do so with the contractor.

Council was in consensus to authorize the city manager to negotiate a final cost to complete the entire scope of the Tennis Court Project and to begin construction on any portion of the contract due to the time sensitivity of the project, and to report the total cost of the project to complete the entire list items for the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Tennis Court Project to council.

Mr. Ramey said after speaking with the contractor he could provide council with an update on the total cost but he doesn't expect the additional projected cost will be over \$25,000 to include all the items listed in the project. He noted this project is listed as a

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) and that other CIP projects are coming in under budget which could help fund the full scope of the Tennis Court Project.

Mayor Fawbush said he was pleased to find downtown crowded with people Saturday evening. He said the streets and parking lots were full of parked cars and people were walking downtown. Mayor Fawbush said council's plans are coming to fruition as a packed city center is proof of council's work.

Mayor Fawbush said Laura Campbell asked him to bring a fundraiser before council that she and others are currently working on to purchase a large inflatable football helmet tunnel for the football team to run through. Ms. Campbell said the total cost is \$4,000 and approximately \$1,500 has been raised toward their goal. Mayor Fawbush suggested to council if the group raises \$3,000 towards the purchase of the inflatable football helmet run through tunnel, council will donate the remaining \$1,000 from unappropriated reserves.

Upon a motion by Councilman Mays, seconded by Councilwoman Belcher, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, council moved to approve a \$1,000 donation from unappropriated reserves toward the purchase of an inflatable football helmet tunnel for the John I. Burton Football team to run through, contingent upon generation of the \$3,000.

Mayor Fawbush said Ben Foy of WLSR Radio in Big Stone Gap, Virginia, is wanting to place a garden or a 4x6 Prisoner of War (POW)/Missing in Action (MIA) statue in the city's Veteran's Park. Mayor Fawbush said Mr. Foy said that if the city would provide a 4x6 concrete pad, then Rolling Thunder, a United States advocacy group dedicated to the accountability for all POW/MIA service members from all U.S. wars, would pay the remaining cost for the project. Mayor Fawbush asked the city manager to review the request and see if space is available in Veteran's Park for this project.

Mayor Fawbush said Ben Foy also asked him to begin doing a 10-15 minute Norton update program on WLSR Radio on Wednesdays called "Wednesday's with the Mayor."

At this time, Councilman Caruso said he wanted to comment on a couple who visited his store Saturday, August 31<sup>st</sup> from Kingsport, Tennessee. He said they came to camp at Flag Rock Recreation Area and said the area was beautiful. He said they wanted to know how long the park remained open for camping and that they would be back in October to camp at Flag Rock.

There being no further business to come before council, and upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by consensus of council, the meeting adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

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Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk of Council





# Inter-Office Memo

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FL*  
**CC:**  
**Date:** September 13, 2019  
**Re:** AmeriCorps/NCCC Team Bayou 5

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On Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, AmeriCorps/NCCC Team Bayou 5 arrived in the City to assist with trail development in the Flag Rock Recreation Area. The team will attend this meeting to introduce themselves and their project to City Council.

Thank You.

## 2019 SESSION

ENROLLED

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 655

*Acknowledging with profound regret the existence and acceptance of lynching within the Commonwealth.*

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 21, 2019

Agreed to by the Senate, February 20, 2019

WHEREAS, the year 2019 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival to the Jamestown settlement of the first Africans in what would become the United States, where they were enslaved, marking the beginning of nearly 250 years of slavery in the British colonies and in the new nation; and

WHEREAS, throughout America's history of slavery, segregation, and inequality, thousands of African Americans were lynched across America, particularly throughout the southern United States, to perpetuate racial inequality and white supremacy and to terrorize African American communities; and

WHEREAS, during Reconstruction, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution were ratified, abolishing slavery, granting citizenship to any person born or naturalized in the United States, and guaranteeing the rights to due process of law and equal protection under the law and the right to vote for African American men; and

WHEREAS, in outright defiance of the Reconstruction Amendments, people across the nation acted outside of the law, deliberately, violently, and brutally, against African American citizens in retribution for alleged or invented crimes and faced few or no consequences; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative has documented more than 4,000 lynchings that took place throughout the South between 1877 and 1950, over 80 of which took place in Virginia; other scholarship documents more than 100 lynchings in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, African American men, women, and children lived in fear that their lives and the lives of loved ones could end violently at any time and in any place; and

WHEREAS, lynchings were often widely known and publicly attended; some were witnessed by crowds that numbered in the thousands, reflecting community acceptance, and many leaders and authorities and much of society denied and enabled the illegal and horrific nature of the acts; and

WHEREAS, *Richmond Planet* editor John Mitchell, Jr., exposed lynchings in Virginia as they occurred and led the state's anti-lynching campaign; however, despite his efforts and other accounts, historians believe still more lynchings remain undocumented; and

WHEREAS, at the urging of *Norfolk Virginia-Pilot* editor Louis Isaac Jaffe and other anti-lynching activists, and to curtail mob violence in Virginia, the General Assembly passed an anti-lynching measure that was signed into law on March 14, 1928, declaring lynching a state crime; and

WHEREAS, the extreme racial animus, violence, and terror embodied in the act of lynching did not die with the criminalization of the act, and few, if any, prosecutions occurred under the measure; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of racism that outlived slavery, enabled the rise and acceptance of lynching, facilitated segregation and disenfranchisement, and denied education and civil rights to African Americans has yet to be uprooted in Virginia, the South, and the nation, and this dark and shameful chapter of American history must be understood, acknowledged, and fully documented and the seemingly irreparable breach mended; and

WHEREAS, the most abject apology for past wrongs cannot right them; yet the spirit of true repentance on behalf of a government and, through it, a people can promote reconciliation and healing and avert the repetition of past wrongs and the disregard of manifested injustices; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Equal Justice Initiative began investigating thousands of racial terror lynchings in the American South in an effort to understand the terror and trauma this sanctioned violence against the African American community created, resulting in the report *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror* in 2015 and the opening of the Memorial for Peace and Justice on April 26, 2018, as the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence; and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly established the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission in 1992 to continue the work of Dr. King, himself a victim of violence, as he sought to realize his dream of a "Beloved Community" in which love, peace, and justice prevail over hatred and

ENROLLED

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2 of 2

fear; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby acknowledge with profound regret the existence and acceptance of lynching within the Commonwealth and call for reconciliation among all Virginians; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission make as complete a record as possible of each documented lynching that occurred in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the names of the victims and the locations and circumstances of each occurrence, to be preserved on the Commission's website, and develop programming to bring awareness and recognition of this history to communities across the state, that such awareness might contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation in Virginia's still-wounded communities and for families and descendants affected by lynchings; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission coordinate with the Department of Historic Resources to identify sites for historic markers to recognize documented lynchings and assist the Equal Justice Initiative in its Community Remembrance Project in the Commonwealth; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, requesting that it further disseminate copies of this resolution to its constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the General Assembly of Virginia in this matter.



SCOTT KISER PHOTO  
Addington Middle School championship  
er, Colton Arney and Tracy Wang.

raue. He also commended the annual  
sports of Mark Giles, who organizes the  
competition.

L.F. Addington championship team  
members were Seth Boggs, Gavin Collins,  
hiannon Baker, Colton Arney, Tracy  
Wang, Jackson Ramey, Charles Maine,  
eace Elkins, Jason Mellon, Tavish  
ratton and Malachi Ledford.

## are protested



INVEST VIRGINIA PHOTO

dirty industry with no regard for the health  
ty of our people and communities."  
elease alleged that Wells Fargo has a finan-  
ionship with Energy Transfer Partners, the  
y behind the Dakota Access pipeline project  
ompany that "bought out the land holdings of  
ginia Resources."  
s that took action locally were Southern  
hian Mountain Stewards and the Alliance for  
hia.

information can be found at  
[www.facebook.com/investvirginia](http://www.facebook.com/investvirginia).

according to the company's  
announcement.

Thrower, Blanton has a

MERGER, PAGE 2

# Project recalls lynching victims

JENAY TATE

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

WISE — After hearing  
about local involvement in a  
community remembrance  
project to memorialize  
lynchings that terrorized  
African-  
Americans,  
Wise County  
School Board  
directed its  
attorney to  
draft for con-  
sideration a  
resolution of  
support and  
partnership.

The last  
documented  
lynching in  
Virginia  
happened  
in 1927 at  
Pound Gap.

### Retired

Wise County teacher and  
coach Preston Mitchell, who  
also is an Episcopalian min-  
ister, made the request at the  
board's May 14 meeting.  
Mitchell outlined the origins  
of the Equal Justice  
Initiative, his role over the  
course of the past year and  
the history of lynchings in  
Wise County.

The last documented  
lynching in Virginia hap-  
pened right here in 1927, at  
Pound Gap, from a platform  
that had been erected a week  
earlier to celebrate the open-  
ing of the road between  
Virginia and Kentucky.

A mining engineer from  
Coeburn, Herschel Deaton,  
was allegedly shot and killed  
by a black coal miner,  
Leonard Woods, near

LYNCHINGS, PAGE 2



# Lynchings

FROM PAGE 1

Jenkins, Ky. After his burial, a group of white men, mostly from Coeburn, took 36 cars over the mountain and broke Woods out of the Whitesburg jail and, with some 500 people assembled, hung him, riddled him with bullets and burned his body, Mitchell related to the board.

One aspect of the Community Remembrance Project is to erect historic markers in these spaces.

The very first one, created by the Equal Justice Initiative of Montgomery, Ala., features 805 rusted steel coffins hanging suspended from rafters and one of those represents Wise County's three lynchings. The Montgomery group has documented 4,400 lynchings in the United States.

The first marker in Virginia was established in Charles City last month.

In order to procure a historic marker for victims of mob violence, the application requires five individual sponsors. But Mitchell said they have a consortium of four partners, including the University of Virginia's College at Wise, a group of Wise County Episcopal churches, a group of African-American churches and

the Historical Society of The Pound, and want the school board to be the fifth. Representatives from each group were on hand that night.

Mitchell has spoken more than a half-dozen times on the topic over the last year and has encountered sentiments questioning the undertaking, he said, such as "Why are you bringing this up? We know lynching was bad. Why dredge up these memories?"

The answer rests in the General Assembly's joint resolution, he told the school board, reading an excerpt. The "extreme racial animus, violence, and terror embodied in the act of lynching did not die with the criminalization of the act."

"The legacy of racism that outlived slavery, enabled the rise and acceptance of lynching, facilitated segregation and disenfranchisement, and denied education and civil rights to African Americans has yet to be uprooted in Virginia, the South, and the nation, and this dark and shameful chapter of American history must be understood, acknowledged, and fully documented and the seemingly irreparable breach mended."

The Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project, Mitchell read from the state resolution, "to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces."

The initiative in Virginia got bipartisan and unanimous support with one resolution proposed by a Democrat and one by a Republican, Mitchell told the board.

It's not a partisan issue, not a liberal or conservative issue, he said.

Had the General Assembly not passed this unanimously, he said, "I don't know that I would go and open up the wounds." There had been backlash against the effort in Wytheville, he said, and locally they decided to lay groundwork.

The local group has formed to fulfill the promise of the state legislature's resolution. The group will research and document the three Wise-County lynchings, will attempt to identify and talk to sur-

viving descendants of victims, work with the Equal Justice Initiative and the State Department of Historic Resources to erect memorials to the lynchings, and prepare curricular materials for use in local schools.

UVA-Wise has employed interns to do the research on the Wise County lynchings. They have already taken one trip to Montgomery and will take another in the fall.

As a teacher, he said, when you can bring in the community it makes lessons more alive than in a textbook. The lessons will be designed for high school students, he confirmed, noting, "These are uncomfortable things to talk about."

He recalled when he came to Pound to teach and coach, they had no black students in school or the community.

Looking back on it, "my guys" had very little interaction with people of color, he said, and today only a very small percentage of local communities are African-American.

It makes it "that much more important that we address these issues," Mitchell said. "Our students are not going to stay in a cocoon ... We need to prepare them for the world."

caught Hill a short distance away.

meth earlier."

**RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING WITH PROFOUND REGRET THE EXISTENCE AND  
ACCEPTANCE OF LYNCHING WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH AND CALLING FOR  
RECONCILIATION AMONG ALL VIRGINIANS**

**WHEREAS**, the year 2019 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival to the Jamestown settlement of the first Africans in what would become the United States, where they were enslaved, marking the beginning of nearly 250 years of slavery in the British colonies and in the new nation; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout America's history of slavery, segregation, and inequality, thousands of African Americans were lynched across America, particularly throughout the southern United States, to perpetuate racial inequality and white supremacy and to terrorize African American communities; and

**WHEREAS**, during Reconstruction, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution were ratified, abolishing slavery, granting citizenship to any person born or naturalized in the United States, and guaranteeing the rights to due process of law and equal protection under the law and the right to vote for African American men; and

**WHEREAS**, in outright defiance of the Reconstruction Amendments, people across the nation acted outside of the law, deliberately, violently, and brutally, against African American citizens in retribution for alleged or invented crimes and faced few or no consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Justice Initiative has documented more than 4,000 lynchings that took place throughout the South between 1877 and 1950, over 80 of which took place in Virginia; other scholarship documents more than 100 lynchings in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, African American men, women, and children lived in fear that their lives and the lives of loved ones could end violently at any time and in any place; and

**WHEREAS**, lynchings were often widely known and publicly attended; some were witnessed by crowds that numbered in the thousands, reflecting community acceptance, and many leaders and authorities and much of society denied and enabled the illegal and horrific nature of the acts; and

**WHEREAS**, *Richmond Planet* editor John Mitchell, Jr., exposed lynchings in Virginia as they occurred and led the state's antilynching campaign; however, despite his efforts and other accounts, historians believe still more lynchings remain undocumented; and

**WHEREAS**, at the urging of *Norfolk Virginia-Pilot* editor Louis Isaac Jaffe and other antilynching activists, and to curtail mob violence in Virginia, the General Assembly passed an antilynching measure that was signed into law on March 14, 1928, declaring lynching a state crime; and

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**WHEREAS**, the most abject apology for past wrongs cannot right them; yet the spirit of true repentance on behalf of a government and, through it, a people can promote reconciliation and healing and avert the repetition of past wrongs and the disregard of manifested injustices; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, the Equal Justice Initiative began investigating thousands of racial terror lynchings in the American South in an effort to understand the terror and trauma this sanctioned violence against the African American community created, resulting in the report *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror* in 2015 and the opening of the Memorial for Peace and Justice on April 26, 2018, as the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly established the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission in 1992 to continue the work of Dr. King, himself a victim of violence, as he sought to realize his dream of a "Beloved Community" in which love, peace, and justice prevail over hatred and fear; now, therefore be it

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the City Council of the City of Norton hereby acknowledge with profound regret the existence and acceptance of lynching within the Commonwealth and call for reconciliation among all Virginians; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the City Council that the Commonwealth's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission make as complete a record as possible of each documented lynching that occurred in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the names of the victims and the locations and circumstances of each occurrence, to be preserved on the Commission's website, and develop programming to bring awareness and recognition of this history to communities across the state, that such awareness might contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation in Virginia's still-wounded communities and for families and descendants affected by lynchings; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission coordinate with the Department of Historic Resources to identify sites for historic markers to recognize documented lynchings and assist the Equal Justice Initiative in its Community Remembrance Project in the Commonwealth; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY**, that the Clerk of City Council transmit a copy of this resolution to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chairman and Executive Director of the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, and the Chancellor of the Virginia Community College System requesting that they further disseminate copies of this resolution to their respective constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the City of Norton in this matter.



ADOPTED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2019.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA

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Joseph Fawbush, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rebecca K. Coffey, Clerk

**RESOLUTION 19-012 COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Coeburn has been approached for support to further the purpose of the Community Remembrance Project Resolution that was passed unanimously by the Virginia House of Delegates on February 21, 2019, and agreed to by the Senate on February 20, 2019, and

WHEREAS, the Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces, and

WHEREAS, the Joint Resolution of the House and Senate directed that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission develop programming to bring awareness and recognition of this history to communities across the state, as such awareness might contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation in Virginia's still-wounded communities and for families and descendants affected by lynchings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Coeburn supports the objectives of JOINT RESOLUTION 655 that was passed unanimously by the House and Senate to further the purpose and education involving the Community Remembrance Project. Furthermore, in passing this Resolution, the Town Council and its members pledge to uphold the values of Authenticity,

Forthrightness, Collaboration, Listening with Respect, and Empowered Courtesy personally and in the Town Council's involvement in the Community Remembrance Project and to be held accountable to the Community Remembrance Project Values.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this resolution is adopted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2019, and a copy of this Resolution shall be presented to the local organizers of the Community Remembrance Project who are working to document the area's history and to further the purpose of Joint Resolution 655.

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Jeff Kiser, Mayor

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Sharon Still, Vice-Mayor

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Mike Holbrook, Council Member

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Mike Wright, Council Member

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Devantae Mooney, Council Member

**ATTEST:**

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Kathy Sharpe, Clerk

**RESOLUTION NO. 42, 2019****A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ACKNOWLEDGING, WITH PROFOUND REGRET, THE EXISTENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF LYNCHING WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH AND CALLING FOR RECONCILIATION AMONG ALL VIRGINIANS**

**WHEREAS**, the year 2019 marks the 400th anniversary of the arrival to the Jamestown settlement of the first Africans in what would become the United States, where they were enslaved, marking the beginning of nearly 250 years of slavery in the British colonies and in the new nation; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout America's history of slavery, segregation, and inequality, thousands of African Americans were lynched across America, particularly throughout the southern United States, to perpetuate racial inequality and white supremacy and to terrorize African American communities; and

**WHEREAS**, during Reconstruction, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution were ratified, abolishing slavery, granting citizenship to any person born or naturalized in the United States, and guaranteeing the rights to due process of law and equal protection under the law and the right to vote for African American men; and

**WHEREAS**, in outright defiance of the Reconstruction Amendments, people across the nation acted outside of the law, deliberately, violently, and brutally, against African American citizens in retribution for alleged or invented crimes and faced few or no consequences; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Justice Initiative has documented more than 4,000 lynchings that took place throughout the South between 1877 and 1950, over 80 of which took place in Virginia; other scholarship documents more than 100 lynchings in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, African American men, women, and children lived in fear that their lives and the lives of loved ones could end violently at any time and in any place; and

**WHEREAS**, lynchings were often widely known and publicly attended; some were witnessed by crowds that numbered in the thousands, reflecting community acceptance, and many leaders and authorities and much of society denied and enabled the illegal and horrific nature of the acts; and

**WHEREAS**, Richmond Planet editor John Mitchell, Jr., exposed lynchings in Virginia as they occurred and led the state's anti-lynching campaign; however, despite his efforts and other accounts, historians believe still more lynchings remain undocumented; and

**WHEREAS**, at the urging of Norfolk Virginia-Pilot editor Louis Isaac Jaffe and other anti-lynching activists, and to curtail mob violence in Virginia, the General Assembly passed an anti-lynching measure that was signed into law on March 14, 1928, declaring lynching a state crime; and

**RESOLUTION NO. 42, 2019****Page Two of Three**

**WHEREAS**, the extreme racial animus, violence, and terror embodied in the act of lynching did not die with the criminalization of the act, and few, if any, prosecutions occurred under the measure; and

**WHEREAS**, the legacy of racism that outlived slavery, enabled the rise and acceptance of lynching, facilitated segregation and disenfranchisement, and denied education and civil rights to African Americans has yet to be uprooted in Virginia, the South, and the nation, and this dark and shameful chapter of American history must be understood, acknowledged, and fully documented and the seemingly irreparable breach mended; and

**WHEREAS**, the most abject apology for past wrongs cannot right them; yet the spirit of true repentance on behalf of a government and, through it, a people can promote reconciliation and healing and avert the repetition of past wrongs and the disregard of manifested injustices; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, the Equal Justice Initiative began investigating thousands of racial terror lynchings in the American South in an effort to understand the terror and trauma this sanctioned violence against the African American community created, resulting in the report *Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror* in 2015 and the opening of the Memorial for Peace and Justice on April 26, 2018, as the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Equal Justice Initiative created the Community Remembrance Project to create greater awareness and understanding about racial terror lynchings and to begin a necessary conversation that advances truth and reconciliation by working with communities to commemorate and recognize the traumatic era of lynching by collecting soil from lynching sites across the country and erecting historical markers and monuments in these spaces; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly established the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission in 1992 to continue the work of Dr. King, himself a victim of violence, as he sought to realize his dream of a "Beloved Community" in which love, peace, and justice prevail over hatred and fear.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Wise, Virginia that the Town hereby acknowledges with profound regret the existence and acceptance of lynching within the Commonwealth and call for reconciliation among all Virginians; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by said Town Council that the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission make as complete a record as possible of each documented lynching that occurred in the Commonwealth of Virginia, including the names of the victims and the

**RESOLUTION NO. 42, 2019****Page Three of Three**

locations and circumstances of each occurrence, to be preserved on the Commission's website, and develop programming to bring awareness and recognition of this history to communities across the state, that such awareness might contribute to the process of healing and reconciliation in Virginia's still-wounded communities and for families and descendants affected by lynchings; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by said Town Council that the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission coordinate with the Department of Historic Resources to identify sites for historic markers to recognize documented lynchings and assist the Equal Justice Initiative in its Community Remembrance Project in the Commonwealth; and,

**BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY**, that the Clerk of Council transmit a copy of this resolution to the Virginia Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Commission, requesting that it further disseminate copies of this resolution to its constituents so that they may be apprised of the sense of the Wise Town Council.

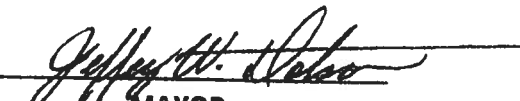
**VOTING "AYE":** Jeffery Dotson, Teresa Adkins, Laura Taylor-Baugh, Billy Bartlett, Jr.,  
Caynor Smith, Jr.

**VOTING "NAY":** None

**ABSENT:** None **ABSTENTIONS:** None

**ADOPTED AND EFFECTIVE** this the 27th day of August, 2019.

**TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA**

  
**MAYOR**

**ATTEST:**

  
**CLERK OF COUNCIL**

**City of Norton**

# Inter-Office Memo

**To:** Mayor and City Council  
**From:** Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager *FR*  
**CC:**  
**Date:** September 13, 2019  
**Re:** Innovation Network Team

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Recently, Norton City Schools Superintendent Gina Wohlford requested an opportunity for their Innovation Network Team to provide City Council with an update on their initiative with project based learning at J. I. Burton this year. Dr. Wohlford and her team will be present to share their efforts with City Council.

Thank You.

**MUTUAL COUNTY/CITY BOUNDARY DESIGNATION**

This Agreement made this the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019 by and between the County of Wise and the City of Norton.

**WHEREAS**, Section 15.2-1726 of the Code of Virginia was recently amended to allow localities to agree upon boundary lines to more efficiently and effectively dispatch emergency services, including fire, rescue and police service and to designate specific law enforcement response in boundary areas between jurisdictions that may have been heretofore undefined; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 15.2-1726 specifically authorizes localities to enter agreements for cooperation in the furnishing of police services, subject to the conditions of the agreement and grants the same powers, rights, benefits, privileges and immunities in every jurisdiction subscribing to such agreement including the authority to make arrests in every such jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, the localities identified herein agree and acknowledge that the boundary lines between Wise County and City of Norton are not exact or precise and not conducive to survey without astronomical cost; that the county/city do not utilize the same boundary designation leaving pocket areas that are not in either county or are overlapping in areas that are then arguably in the County and City making it difficult to ascertain the proper responding agency for law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties hereto have the aforestated legislative authority to agree and designate an agreed boundary separate and apart from the USGS, VDOT, and VGIN boundaries and have determined in an effort to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of these areas to designate the law enforcement agency responsible for response to the area and to



enter that information into each jurisdiction's 911 data base to avoid confusion and expedite response and document jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, it is deemed to be mutually beneficial to each ~~county~~ jurisdiction to enter into this agreement concerning and designating these boundary areas which shall effectively become the E-911 (PSAP) boundary; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties desire that the terms and conditions of such Boundary Designations be established.

**WITNESSETH:**

That for and in consideration of the mutual benefits to be derived by the COUNTY OF WISE and CITY OF NORTON, respectively, from entering this cooperative agreement designating mutually agreed upon boundary lines between the contiguous areas of the localities for the purpose of providing police services and further to clarify issues related to workers compensation and risk management and jurisdiction covenant and agree with the other, pursuant to proper resolution approved by each governing body and Sheriff's Office/Police Department, as follows:

1. The parties hereto agree upon the boundary lines as shown upon Exhibit A hereto and same are determined to be the most appropriate and concise depiction of boundary designation to more efficiently and effectively dispatch police service to the affected areas and by this agreement does designate specific law enforcement response in the newly defined boundary areas for the purpose of E-911 Dispatch services.
2. The parties will endeavor to provide reciprocal law enforcement support within the capabilities available at any time a request is made and within the terms of the statutory authority and this Agreement.

3. The services performed pursuant to this Agreement shall be deemed to be for public and governmental purposes and all immunities from liability enjoyed by the parties, their agents and employees with their respective jurisdictions shall extend to response in the agreed upon and designated boundary zones for the 911 dispatch and law enforcement response.
4. Officers responding to areas covered by this Agreement shall have all necessary authority to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia and to perform the other duties of a law enforcement officer for the subject jurisdiction.
5. This Agreement shall be effective from the date of execution, until terminated by either party, giving thirty (30) days prior written notice of termination to the other parties.
6. Any notice required by this Agreement shall be deemed effective if given by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by other receipted delivery, to the other party at their regular address of record.

The signatures of the parties are set out below in acknowledgement of this Agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Ronald D Oakes**, Wise County Sheriff

County of Wise Commonwealth/State of Virginia

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019, by  
**Ronald D Oakes**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Notary Public

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Dana G Kilgore**, Chairman  
 Wise County Board of Supervisors

County/City of \_\_\_\_\_ Commonwealth/State of \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019, by  
Dana G Kilgore

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**James C Lane, Chief**  
City of Norton

County/City of \_\_\_\_\_ Commonwealth/State of \_\_\_\_\_

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019, by  
James C Lane

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Joseph Fawbush, Mayor**  
City of Norton Council

County/City of \_\_\_\_\_ Commonwealth/State of \_\_\_\_\_

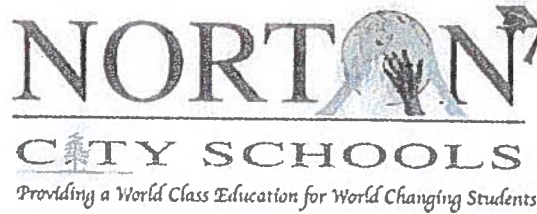
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2019, by  
Joseph Fawbush

\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

My commission expires: \_\_\_\_\_

**SCHOOL BOARD**

Cody McElroy, Chairperson  
Dr. Wes Campbell, Vice-Chairperson  
Sherry Adams  
Carol Caruso  
Mark Leonard



**DIVISION SUPERINTENDENT**  
Dr. Gina J. Wohlford  
gwohlford@nortoncityschools.org  
Phone 276.679.2330  
Fax 276.679.4315

**TO:** Jeff Shupe  
**FROM:** Jacqueline Brooke  
**SUBJECT:** Request for Funds  
  
**DATE:** July 29, 2019

Norton City Schools requests a deposit of City Funds in the amount of \$225,000 to cover July 2019 payroll expenditures.

Thank you!